

July 1st 1872

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& copied in Boston Libr. Jan. 26th.

[Copy] "Dear Mr. Garrison; I was so unfortunate as not to have been among the friends of yours, who, after the Proclamation of Emancipation, united in a Testimonial to your long and tried services for the Anti-Slavery cause. May I, at this late hour, add my name to the list of those who are more fortunate in having earlier, but I am sure cannot have more heartily expressed their feelings?" [Mrs Sarah Shaw R. June 21st 1872]

Enclosed in her note was a check for three hundred dollars. Of course, I sent her my grateful acknowledgments for this handsome token of her personal regard, but whether there ought to be a public recognition of it in a card or some other shape, or whether she would wish at this late day to have any publicity given to it, I am embarrassed to decide. Please give me your opinion about it. Perhaps you will feel inclined to send her a letter, as it was solely through your untiring efforts that the Testimonial was crowned with such success. The only reason I hesitate about a public acknowledgment is, that it will certainly set many tongues in motion in the way of gossip and speculation, and may induce fresh applications for pecuniary assistance from a class of persons who are ever seeking occasions to improve their chronic destitutions in a Jeremy Diddler fashion. But I will abide by your good judgment in the matter.

Fanny continues to send us an interesting letter each week, giving us just the particulars we desire to get. All the family are now at Baden-Baden, where they are to remain until autumn. They are delightfully located, and have had no drawbacks. Mr. Villard's health is somewhat improved. It is not probable that they will return home before next year.

William and his family are sojourning at Jefferson, N. H., and expects to remain there until the 1st of September.

What continuous and excessively hot weather we have had for some time past, and up to this hour without abatement! In the great cities — particularly New York and Philadelphia — it has swollen the bills of mortality like a pestilence. My wife would have suffered greatly from it, if she had

been as she was before her paralytic attack; but since then, she has not felt any inconvenience from the heat, which exemption is a slight compensation for her crippled condition.

Poor Richard D. Webb! Your account of his enfeebled condition makes me feel very sad. It is evident that, in his case, "the inevitable hour" is not far distant. He is well prepared for the change, even if any special preparation is necessary; but I could wish ^{that} he had a stronger assurance of the life beyond the grave than he seems to entertain. In the sequel, however, this can be of very little consequence. What may be our speculations as to the future state of existence is as dust in the balance compared with the right use of the life that now is. I will try to send dear R. D. W. a letter of sympathy by the next mail. Frank wrote him a long and circumstantial one yesterday.

Notwithstanding the intense heat, my health has been much better than it was in the Spring. "Music has charms" — has it also medicinal qualities? Of this I am sure — the Jubilee made me forget my pains and weaknesses, and I gained in strength and spirits all the way through from the 17th of June to July 4th!

To your dear wife and yourself we send our loving household regards, not forgetting your dear children.

Your grateful friend,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Rev. Samuel May
(Leicester
Mass.)

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